

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 681 - SB 1219**

March 1, 2015

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires a summary of a state constitutional amendment not to exceed 200 words in length, in a clear and coherent manner using words with common everyday meanings, to precede the question on the ballot.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Expenditures –  
Exceeds \$25,000/FY18-19 and Every Four Years Thereafter\***

Assumptions:

- The Department of State (SOS) indicates an average of two constitutional amendments per ballot since the 1998 election year.
- According to the Department of State, adding a summary as proposed for each question on a ballot will increase the length and cost for the publication of the sample ballot and paper ballots.
- Based on the information provided by the Department of State, extending the length of the ballot to capture state constitutional amendment summaries as proposed by the bill, will increase local government expenditures by an unknown amount reasonably estimated to exceed \$25,000. This estimate is based on changes that would have been required, had the provisions of this bill been in effect, for a ballot utilized by Hamilton County for the November 2014 elections.
- The Department of State indicated any additional costs would only be incurred in fiscal years coinciding with gubernatorial elections. As a result, the first fiscal year impacted will be FY18-19.

**IMPACT TO COMMERCE:**

**Increase Business Revenue –  
Exceeds \$25,000/FY18-19 and Every Four Years Thereafter**

Assumption:

- Local governments utilize private entities for development and printing of ballots.
- Increased costs for local governments translate to increased revenue for private business entities.

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**\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.***

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "S".

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

/dwl